AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring data via a communication session between a client application behind a first firewall and a server application behind a second firewall, the method being performed by at least one device that is not behind either the first firewall or the second firewall, the method comprising:

assigning an identifier to the communication session;

creating at least one queue associated with the communication session; ~~and~~

storing data passed between the client application and the server application in the at least one queue, the data being stored using the identifier; and

receiving, from the client application, a command to obtain data in the at least one queue destined for the client application, and receiving, from the server application, a command to obtain data in the at least one queue destined for the server application;

wherein the client application and the server application run local protocols, and the data is passed between the client application and the server application via an intermediary protocol.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating a socket interface to at least one of the client application and the server application, ~~the~~ data from the at least one device being transmitted through the socket interface.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the client application and the server application are on networks that run the local protocols, and ~~the method further comprises:~~

~~converting~~ wherein conversion between the local protocols and the intermediary protocol ~~when~~ occurs prior to passing the data through the device.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the local protocols comprise ~~protocol comprises~~ at least one of TCP/IP and a serial protocol, the serial protocol comprising one of RS232 and RS485.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the intermediary protocol comprises HTTP.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is associated with the at least one queue.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~method is performed by~~ at least one device comprises a server, and the method further comprises:

performing load balancing to select the server to perform the method from among plural servers.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is invalidated when the communication session terminates.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication session comprises a telnet session.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication session is effected via a Web site.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining a session record, the session record including an identity ~~of a user initiating~~ associated with initiation of the session.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring data via a communication session between a client application and a server application, the client application running on a first network behind a first firewall and the server application running on a second network behind a second firewall, the system comprising:

a proxy having a socket to the client application, the proxy ~~converting~~ to convert data between a local protocol run on the first network to a non-local protocol;

an agent ~~that creates~~ having a socket to the server application, the agent ~~converting~~ to convert data between a local protocol run on the second network and the non-local protocol; and

a server ~~in communication with~~ to enable communication between the proxy and the agent, the server containing a message queue dedicated to the communication session, the message queue for storing data transmitted during the communication session,

wherein the server is configured to receive, from the client application, data in the message queue destined for the server application, and to receive, from the server application, data in the message queue destined for the client application; and

wherein the server is configured to receive, from the client application, a command to obtain data in the message queue destined for the client application, and to receive, from the server application, a command to obtain data in the message queue destined for the server application.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 ~~13~~, wherein, when data is present for the client application, the proxy ~~retrieves~~ obtains the data from the message queue and passes the data to the client application.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 ~~15~~, wherein, when data is present for the server application, the agent ~~retrieves~~ obtains the data from the message queue and passes the data to the server application.

17. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that stores instructions for use in transferring data via a communication session between a client application behind a first firewall and a server application behind a second firewall, the instructions being executable by a machine that is not behind either the first firewall or the second firewall, the instructions for causing ~~a~~ the machine to:

assign an identifier to the communication session;

create at least one queue associated with the communication session; ~~and~~

store data passed between the client application and the server application in the at least one queue, the data being stored using the identifier; and

receive, from the client application, a command to obtain data in the at least one queue destined for the client application, and receive, from the server application, a command to obtain data in the at least one queue destined for the server application;

wherein the client application and the server application run local protocols, and the data is passed between the client application and the server application via an intermediary protocol.

18. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the intermediary protocol is different from the local protocols.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediary protocol is different from the local protocols.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediary protocol is a same protocol as the local protocols.